Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Following the above the author has added a systematic list, summarized from the preceeding authorities. This compilation, which will be found very convenient by the student, shows a total of 318 species and varieties; of these 48 species and varieties are terrestrial and the others marine. Of the latter, 61 are Lambellibranchs and 1 Scaphopod; 205 species and 13 varieties are Gastropods.

Of the marine species the author says, "Less than a half score are indigenous, of these, some, if not all, may prove, upon a better knowledge of the molluscs of the shores of Central and South America, to belong to the mainland." A comparison is suggested of *Omphalius cooksonii* Smith, with the Antillean *O. fasciatus*. The nnmber of species that exhibit intimate relationship with Antillean-Carribean forms is quite small and in conspicuous when placed side by side with the American types; the latter include nearly all the species contained in the summarized list.

The author observes that the land shells are of a distinctly West South American aspect, and a comparison is suggested with several species named, which occur in Bolivia, Peru and Chili, rather than to the peculiar forms inhabiting Ecuador and other South and Central American States further north.

In several instances the erroneous determination of marine species or varieties of the same, that have been made by various authors resulting in the accrediting of Indo-Pacific forms to the Galapagos Islands, have been pointed out and explained. The report closes with a plate containing figures of the species described, and the map of the Galapagos islands.—CHAS. T. SIMPSON.

An Examination of Weismannism.[3]—The several chapters comprised in this volume have been written at successive intervals during the last six or eight years, as Professor Weismann's works have appeared, so that this discussion by Mr. Romanes presents a clear view of the growth of the Weismannian theories. Three chapters are devoted respectively to Weismann's system up to the year 1886—to the year 1892—to the year 1893. Of the two remaining chapters, one is a discussion of Weismann's theory of heredity (1891), the other is a critical examination of Weismann's theory of evolution (1891). Two appendices entitled "On Germ Plasm and On Telegony" complete the volume.

In conclusion, the author refers to the fundamental changes which Professor Weismann has wrought in his general system of theories by the publication of his more recent works, and closes with the following remarks:

---

[3] An Examination of Weismannism. By George John Romanes, M. A., LL.D., F. R. S. Chicago, 1893. Open Court Publishing Co.

"Thus, the Weismannian theory of evolution has entirely fallen to pieces with the removal of its fundamental postulate—the absolute stability of germ-plasm. It only remains to mention once more the effects of this removal upon the other side of his system, viz., the companion postulate of the uninterrupted continuity of germ-plasm, with its superstructure in his theory of heredity."

Briefly, these effects are as follows:

"1. Germ-plasm ceases to be continuous in the sense of having borne a perpetual record of congenital variations from the first origin of sexual propagation.

"2. On the contrary, as all such variations have been originated by the direct action of external conditions, the continuity of germ-plasm in this sense has been interrupted at the commencement of every inherited change during the phylogeny of all plants and animals, unicellular as well as multicellular."

"3. But germ-plasm remains continuous in the restricted, though still highly important sense, of being the sole repository of hereditary characters of each successive generation, so that acquired characters can never have been transmitted to progeny "representatively," even although they have frequently caused those "specialized" changes in the structure of germ-plasm which, as we have seen, must certainly have been of considerable importance in the history of organic evolution."

"4. By surrendering his doctrine of the *absolute* stability of germ-plasm on the one hand, and of its *perpetual* continuity on the other, Weismann has greatly improved his theory of heredity. For, whatever may be thought of his recent additions to this theory in the way of elaborate speculation touching the ultimate mechanism of heredity, it is a great gain to have freed his fundamental postulate of the continuity of germ-plasm from the two further postulates which have just been mentioned, and the sole purpose of which was to provide a basis for his untenable theory of evolution."

"5. In my opinion, it only remains for him to withdraw the last remnant of his theory of evolution by cancelling his modified and even less tenable views on amphimixis, in order to give us a theory of heredity which is at once logically intact and biologically probable."

"6. The theory of germ-plasm would then resemble that of stirp in all points of fundamental importance, save that while the latter leaves open the question as to whether acquired characters are ever inherited in any degree, the former would dogmatically close it, chiefly on the grounds which I have considered in Appendix II. It seems to me that in the present state of our knowledge, it is more prudent to follow Galton in suspending our judgment with regard to this question, until time shall have been allowed for answering it by the inductive methods of observation and experiment."

"7. Hence, in conclusion, we have for the present, only to repeat what Weismann himself has said in one of the wisest of his utterances: 'The question as to the inheritance of acquired characters remains, whether the theory of germ-plasm be accepted or rejected.'"

"It is now close upon twenty years that I have accepted the substance of this theory under the name of stirp; and since that time the question as to the inheritance of acquired characters remains exactly where it was. No new facts, and no new considerations of much importance, have been forthcoming to assist us in answering it. Therefore, as already stated in the preface, I intend to deal with this question hereafter as a question of *per se*, or one which is not specially associated with the labors of Professor Weismann."

The theory entitled by Romanes by the name of "stirp," was tentatively suggested by Galton in 1875, and was more distinctly enunciated in the AMERICAN NATURALIST for 1889, under the head of Diplogenesis. An acceptance of it is to be found in the article by vom Rath which is republished in the January NATURALIST. It is evident that the diversity in the views of biologists as to the inheritance of acquired characters is becoming more verbal than real.

Extinct Monsters.[4]—In this book of some 250 pages Mr. Hutchinson has endeavored to give a popular account of some of the larger forms of extinct animals, and has illustrated the several chapters with drawings of restorations of them. These drawings are commended to the public by Dr. Henry Woodward, who pronounces them, in a preface, "the happiest set of restorations that has yet appeared."

The author devotes seven of the sixteen chapters to the Saurians, drawing upon the discoveries in the United States for much of his material. Under the head of Sea-Scorpions many points of interest concerning Pterygotus and its allies are given. American Mammals are represented by one species from the Eocene, one from the Neocene, and one from the Plistocene. From the varied Sivalik fauna of India, the author chooses Sivatherium and *Testudo atlas*, and from South America the characteristic Sloths and Glyptodons. The remaining

---

[4] Extinct Monsters. A Popular Account of Some of the Larger Forms of Ancient Animal Life. By Rev. H. N. Hutchinson, with illustrations by J. Smit. London, 1893, Chapman and Hall, Publishers.